

# Camping with the Troop

**Going to camp.** There are several camps available to the scouts throughout the year. The Troop schedules one or two week-long summer camps, as well as a weekend campout just about every month. Registration is done through the Troop adult who is coordinating the campout or event. Payment is due before camp. Fees, registration, food, and transportation costs are paid through the scout's 'Individual Scout Account'. Sometimes an estimated fee is proposed during registration for the event, and you will be notified of the final cost about a week after the event.

**Getting to camp.** The Troop will arrange for transportation to camp. Scouts will meet at a scheduled time, and the adults who volunteered to drive will transport the scouts to camp. Scouts must wear their Class A uniform while traveling to any Troop activity, including camp. After the conclusion of camp the volunteer drivers will return scouts to a pick up location. It is important that scouts stay until the end of camp to help with clean up, check out, etc. The Troop's Event Coordinator must be notified well in advance if special arrangements are needed.

**Merit Badges at Camp.** Usually camps will offer a variety of Merit Badges that the scout can earn while at camp. They are earned in a clinic or group setting and run by a Merit Badge Counselor. The registration materials will show the Merit Badges offered. The scout will choose from the list of available badges, making note of the times the Merit Badge sessions are held, and give this information to the Event Coordinator. Most Merit Badges offered at camp will note the recommended years in scouting or rank needed to earn the Merit Badge. Also, most Merit Badges will have prerequisites that must be completed before camp. It is best for a scout to read the Merit Badge book before camp starts, become familiar with the subject and fulfill any prereqs. If a scout does not fulfill all Merit Badge requirements during camp, a 'partial' will be given. This is not a problem. Many scouts will go home with their requirements only partially completed. They can work on the rest of the requirements at a later date or another camp. Worksheets for Merit Badges may be found on <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp>.

**The Blue Card.** After the scout is registered for the merit badges, a 'Blue Card' will be needed. The Blue Card is the official Merit Badge record and shows what requirements were completed; it is an important document. Usually, during each phase of earning the Merit Badge, the Merit Badge Counselor will initial the Blue Card. Once a merit badge is completed, the Merit Badge Counselor will sign the Blue Card. Sometimes the Troop's Event Coordinator holds onto the Blue Cards. Otherwise, the scout will be given it and should hold onto the entire Blue Card. The scout should seek out their Scoutmaster to discuss how earning the MB went and to obtain the SM signature. The Blue Card will then be given to the Troop's Advancement Coordinator. Once documented, the scout will be given one portion of the Blue Card to keep as a record of earning the merit badge. The actual Merit Badge will be awarded at the next Court of Honor. Keep your Blue Card safe, it is an important record of your Merit Badge work.

**Gear for Camp.** Scouts will camp in the Troop's three-person tents. Scouts need to bring a sleeping bag, camp pillow, and a sleeping mat. Cots are not allowed. Scouts should bring their Handbook, a camp chair, flashlight, towel, and toiletries. A water bottle for walking around camp is also needed. Scouts should pack items in a backpack. Garbage bags are not appropriate camping gear. Please label all personal items.

**Paying for Camp.** Each scout will have an 'Individual Scout Account'. All transactions will be logged by the Troop Treasurer in the Payment Log on Scoutbook. It will hold money earned through product fundraisers and fundraising events, plus any money the scout or family puts in to the account. Funds should be given to the Troop Treasurer; checks should be made out to Troop 49. These funds are held by the Troop for the individual scout's use. Due to IRS rules, funds in the Individual Scout Account may only be used for camp fees and not for personal camping gear. Camp is an important part of scouting. Scholarships and camperships through both Troop 49 and the PAC are available to help scouts pay for camp. Talk to a Committee member for more information. Campership applications are also on the troop website.

**Lone Scout.** There are many camps available through our Council or other Councils. Scouts may attend these as a Lone Scout or find another scout who wants to go, but often an adult will need to attend with the scouts. The registration for these camps is not done through Troop 49. If you find a camp that you think will be of interest to the Troop, a scout can gather the details together and talk to our Activities Director. If feasible, the scouts will talk about making the camp a Troop event.